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Letter dated 28 March 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 25 March 2013 from Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, on the situation in the Central African Republic (see annex). The communiqués of the meetings held by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 23 and 25 March 2013 are also attached.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its attachments to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 25 March 2013 from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission and at the request of the African Union Peace and Security Council, I am writing to you with respect to the situation in the Central African Republic. As you are aware, in recent days, the Seleka rebel group decided to disregard the Ceasefire Agreement concluded under the auspices of the Economic Community of Central African States and launched a military offensive that resulted in the seizure of the capital, Bangui, and the toppling of President François Bozizé in violation of the Libreville Agreements of 11 January 2013.

This situation poses a serious threat to peace, security, and stability in the Central African Republic, the region and the continent as a whole. Indeed, the action by Seleka and its complete disregard of the regional efforts and appeals for restraint by various members of the international community seriously undermine the prospects for the lasting resolution of the crisis facing the Central African Republic and the promotion of democratic governance in that country. It is also likely to heighten insecurity in the region. Finally, it constitutes a very serious setback to the democratization processes on the continent, thus confronting Africa with the renewed challenge posed by the increasing recourse to armed rebellion to further political claims. This has the potential of undermining the progress that has been made over the past years, with the support of the United Nations and other partners, in addressing the scourge of insecurity and instability on the continent.

It is against this background that the African Union Peace and Security Council met on 23 and 25 March 2013 to review the situation and take the required action. I am forwarding herewith the two communiqués issued by the Peace and Security Council for your information and action as appropriate (see enclosures). It would be highly appreciated if the Secretariat could urgently circulate these communiqués to the Security Council members, ahead of their meeting today on the situation in the Central African Republic.

As indicated in the Peace and Security Council communiqués, the African Union would appreciate the strong support of the Security Council for its efforts, including stiff measures against the Seleka group leaders and a strong statement on the determination of the international community to reject the fait accompli and ensure the restoration of constitutional order and the scrupulous implementation of all the provisions of the Libreville Agreements.

It is our conviction that close coordination and cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations, in particular between the Peace and Security Council, will go a long way in furthering our common objective in the Central African Republic and in ensuring that the dangerous move by the Seleka leaders does not further complicate the quest for peace in the Central African Republic, as well as the promotion of security and stability in the region and beyond.

(*Signed*) Ramtane **Lamamra**
Commissioner for Peace and Security

Enclosure I

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 362nd meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 23 March 2013, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Central African Republic:

Council,

1. **Expresses deep concern** at the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Central African Republic following the decision of the Seleka rebel group to break the Ceasefire Agreement concluded in Libreville on 11 January 2013 and to return to armed rebellion and at its far-reaching consequences for security and stability in the Central African Republic and the region, as well as at the resulting humanitarian consequences;

2. **Reiterates** the African Union's total rejection of the recourse to armed rebellion to further political claims and of any seizure of power by force, in violation of the Constitutive Act, the African Charter on Democracy, Governance and Elections and the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government. Council **further recalls** its earlier communiqués on the situation in the Central African Republic;

3. **Welcomes** the press release issued by the Chairperson of the Commission on 22 March 2013, and **strongly condemns** the resumption by the Seleka group of its armed rebellion, in total violation of the Libreville Agreements concluded under the auspices of the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS), with the support of the African Union and the rest of the international community. Council **also welcomes** the press statement on the situation in the Central African Republic issued by the United Nations Security Council on 22 March 2013. Council **demands** that the Seleka group put an immediate halt to its attacks, and **calls on** all concerned to fully comply with their obligations under the Libreville Agreements and settle their differences through dialogue;

4. **Stresses** the obligation of all concerned Central African Republic actors to fully comply with international humanitarian law and human rights and to refrain from any acts of violence against civilians, and **emphasizes its determination** to hold accountable all violators of human rights and humanitarian law in the Central African Republic;

5. **Appreciates** the efforts of ECCAS and its leaders to address the situation in the Central African Republic, and **encourages them** to pursue and intensify these efforts aimed at ending the current fighting and ensuring the effective implementation of the Libreville Agreements. Council **urges** all African Union Member States in a position to do so to extend, within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the Common African Defence and Security Policy, all the necessary support to ECCAS and the Government of the Central African Republic to preserve peace, ensure safety of lives and protect civilians, and to ensure respect for constitutional legality and the Central African Republic institutions;

6. **Decides** to impose travel ban and asset freeze against those Central African Republic political and military actors involved in acts to undermine the Libreville Agreements and violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, and to seek the support of the United Nations Security Council and other partners. In this respect, Council **requests** the Commission to submit to it, within two weeks, the list of individuals to be affected by these sanctions;

7. **Urges** African Union partners, including the Security Council, the European Union and bilateral partners, to consider taking stiff measures against those Central African Republic political and military actors involved in acts to undermine the Libreville Agreements and in violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, taking into account paragraph 6 above;

8. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

Enclosure II

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 363rd meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 25 March 2013, adopted the following decision on the situation in the Central African Republic:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing made by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the evolution of the situation in the Central African Republic. Council **also takes note** of the statements made by the representatives of the Central African Republic, Chad, as Chair of the Economic Community of the Central African States (ECCAS), the ECCAS secretariat, South Africa, Uganda and the United Nations;

2. **Recalls** its communiqués and press statements on the situation in the Central African Republic, in particular its communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.(CCCLXII), adopted at its 362nd meeting, held on 23 March 2013. Council **endorses** the press release issued by the Chairperson of the Commission on 24 March 2013;

3. **Expresses its grave concern** at the negative evolution of the situation in the Central African Republic, following the unilateral and unjustified decision of the Seleka rebel group to flagrantly violate the Libreville Agreements, including the Ceasefire Agreement concluded on 11 January 2013, under ECCAS auspices and supported by the African Union and the rest of the international community, including the United Nations Security Council, to take control of the capital, Bangui, and seize power by force, thereby undermining prospects for the lasting resolution of the crisis facing the Central African Republic and the promotion of democratic governance in that country. Council **underscores** the seriousness of the decision of the Seleka group to undermine the authority of the Heads of State of the region by disregarding the Agreements concluded under their auspices, as well as ignoring the urgent appeals for restraint made by various members of the international community;

4. **Strongly condemns** the abuses and other acts of violence against the civilian populations, as well as the pillaging committed in the aftermath of the entry into Bangui of the armed elements of the Seleka group. Council **presents its condolences** to the Government of South Africa following the killing of soldiers belonging to the South African training contingent deployed in the Central African Republic at the request of the Government of the Central African Republic. Council **reiterates its demand** to the Seleka rebel group and all other concerned to desist from further attacks against civilians, and to strictly comply with international humanitarian law and human rights;

5. **Reaffirms its determination** to hold all those involved in the actions mentioned in paragraph 4 above accountable for their acts, a i in this respect **requests** the Commission to provide it, as soon as possible, with updated information on the situation to enable it take the necessary action;

6. **Emphasizes** that the entry of rebel elements in Bangui and their subsequent seizure of power constitute a flagrant violation of the African Union Constitutive Act, the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government and the

African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, as well as of the decisions of Council and the Assembly of the Union rejecting totally any recourse to armed rebellion to further political claims. Council **further emphasizes** that the actions of the Seleka rebel group seriously undermines the gains made in the democratic processes on the continent and pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and the continent as a whole;

7. **Demands** the scrupulous respect of all provisions of the Libreville Agreements and the transitional arrangements for the governance of the country stipulated therein, as well as the immediate restoration of constitutional order;

8. **Decides**, in the light of the foregoing, to immediately suspend the participation of the Central African Republic in all African Union activities, as well as to impose sanctions, including travel ban and asset freeze, on leaders of the Seleka group, as indicated in the attached annex, pending the submission by the Commission of a more exhaustive list as requested by Council, in paragraph 6 of communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.(CCCLXII) of 23 March 2013;

9. **Calls upon** all Member States to take the necessary measures to completely isolate the perpetrators of the unconstitutional change in the Central African Republic, to deny them any sanctuary and cooperation, as well as to facilitate the implementation of any other measures that would be taken by the African Union, including the judgement of the perpetrators of the unconstitutional change, as provided for in article 25 (5) of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, in order to ensure the immediate restoration of constitutional order. In this context, Council **recalls** the provisions of article 7 (2, 3 & 4) of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council, as well as of article 16 of the said Protocol and other African Union instruments, which give the Union the primary responsibility for promoting peace, security and stability in Africa, within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture;

10. **Urges** the African Union's international partners, including the Security Council and its members, the European Union, the International Organization of La Francophonie and other partners, to expeditiously take stiff measures to reject the fait accompli, hold the perpetrators of the unconstitutional change responsible for their actions and their consequences, including the looting and atrocities under way, as well as to ensure the restoration of constitutional order and the scrupulous implementation of all the provisions of the Libreville Agreements. In this context, Council **looks forward** to the decisions of the envisaged meeting of the United Nations Security Council. Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to urgently transmit this communiqué to the United Nations Security Council and to all other African Union partners;

11. **Calls on** the Commission to initiate the necessary consultations with ECCAS, the United Nations and other international stakeholders to facilitate effective and coordinated international response to the situation in the Central African Republic. Council **emphasizes**, in particular, the importance of close cooperation with the United Nations in addressing the current crisis in the Central African Republic;

12. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the situation.

Annex

1. Mr. **Michel Ám Nondroko Djotodia** (1st Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Government of National Unity, established in pursuance of the Libreville Agreements of 11 January 2013);

2. Mr. **Mouhamed Moussa Dhafane** (Minister of Water, Forestry, Hunting, Environment and Ecology in the Government of National Unity established in pursuance of the Libreville Agreements of 11 January 2013);

3. Mr. **Christophe Gazam Betty** (Minister of Communication, Promotion of Civic Education and National Reconciliation in the Government of National Unity established in pursuance of the Libreville Agreements of 11 January 2013);

4. Mr. **Amalas Amias Aroune** (Minister of Commerce and Industry in the Government of National Unity established in pursuance of the Libreville Agreements of 11 January 2013);

5. Mr. **Andre Ringui Le Gaillard** (Minister of Urbanism in the Government of National Unity established in pursuance of the Libreville Agreements of 11 January 2013);

6. Mr. **Noureldine Adam** (Leader of CPJP-Fundamental, one of the groups of the Seleka coalition);

7. Mr. **Eric N. Massi** (International Spokesperson of the Seleka coalition based in Paris).